GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5386
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
UNIFORM CALL RATE
Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to establish telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the ISD call rates both mobile and landline from India to Middle East countries are very much on the higher side as compared to ISD call rates from India to USA, UK, Canada or any other countries in the world;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce the ISD call rates from India to Middle East countries;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) No Sir. At present there is no proposal to establish telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call.

(d) & (e) Tariffs for telecom services in the country are governed by the frame work laid down in the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 as amended from time to time. As per the existing provisions of TTO, tariff for telecom services are under forberance except with regard to Fixed Line service in Rural Areas, National Roaming Service in Cellular Mobile Service and Leased Line Service.

The ISD call rates from India to Middle East countries is either at par with/or on lesser side as compared to any country in the world except USA, Canada, UK Srilanka, Singapore, Hongkong, Thialand, Malasia and Indonesia.

The trends and recent changes in ILD call charges as provided by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is at Annexure-I. The ISD charges in respect of BSNL and MTNL are given at Annexure-II & III.

(f) At present there is no proposal in BSNL and MTNL to reduce the ISD call rates from India to Middle East countries.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

(h) Tariffs are being reviewed from time to time on the basis of needs of the customers, prevailing market conditions, termination/carriage charges payable for carrying the international call to different foreign destinations and TRAI regulations.

Under certain plans customer can make ISD calls at very competitive rates.